

/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

SPRING ISSUE

Greensburg, Indiana

MAY 1995

OCCASION: Historical Society Spring Meeting.

PLACE: Decatur County Library Meeting Room.

DATE: Wednesday, May 10, 1995 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: "Hoosier Hysteria in the Veledrome" is the title of the entertainment to be given by Dan Lee at the coming May meeting. Mr. Lee is the Asst. Editor of the Greensburg Daily News & a member of the local Historical Society. He is an avid bicyclist, and will discuss the history of this sport both old & new. Be sure to come, you'll learn many interesting things about this once again popular sport. Refreshments will be served, maybe.

* * * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Lee
Mary E. Ward

MEMORIALS

From Paul Pank in memory of Margaret Elder, Lucille Irwin, and the Pank children-Jennie, Olivia, & Anna.

From Mrs. Harry K. Keller, Indianapolis, a membership in the Indiana Historical Society, in memory of Mrs. Edna Wolfe Williams.

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LIFE MEMBERS

Charles Shirk
Mrs. Charles (Patricia) Shirk

* * * *

DONATION

Mrs. Welby M. Frantz (Frances Mitchell)

Last Meeting-This was the Annual Dinner Meeting which was very well attended. Around 100 folks were present and enjoyed a tasty meal, put on by the ladies of the Church. They were, also, entertained by an excellent program given by Peter Harstad, executive director of the Indiana Historical Society. His talk was a rather unusual one about Lincoln. He discussed Lincoln's masterful use of the English language. During the business meeting the officers for the new year were elected. Their names will appear on the back page of the Bulletin. The financial report was given & approved, the organization is still solvent. An all around fine meeting.

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Christmas Ornaments are still available if you are so inclined. Might add there are 1915 Decatur County History Books & 1984 Decatur County History Books for sale, they can be purchased at Maddux's Auction Barn.

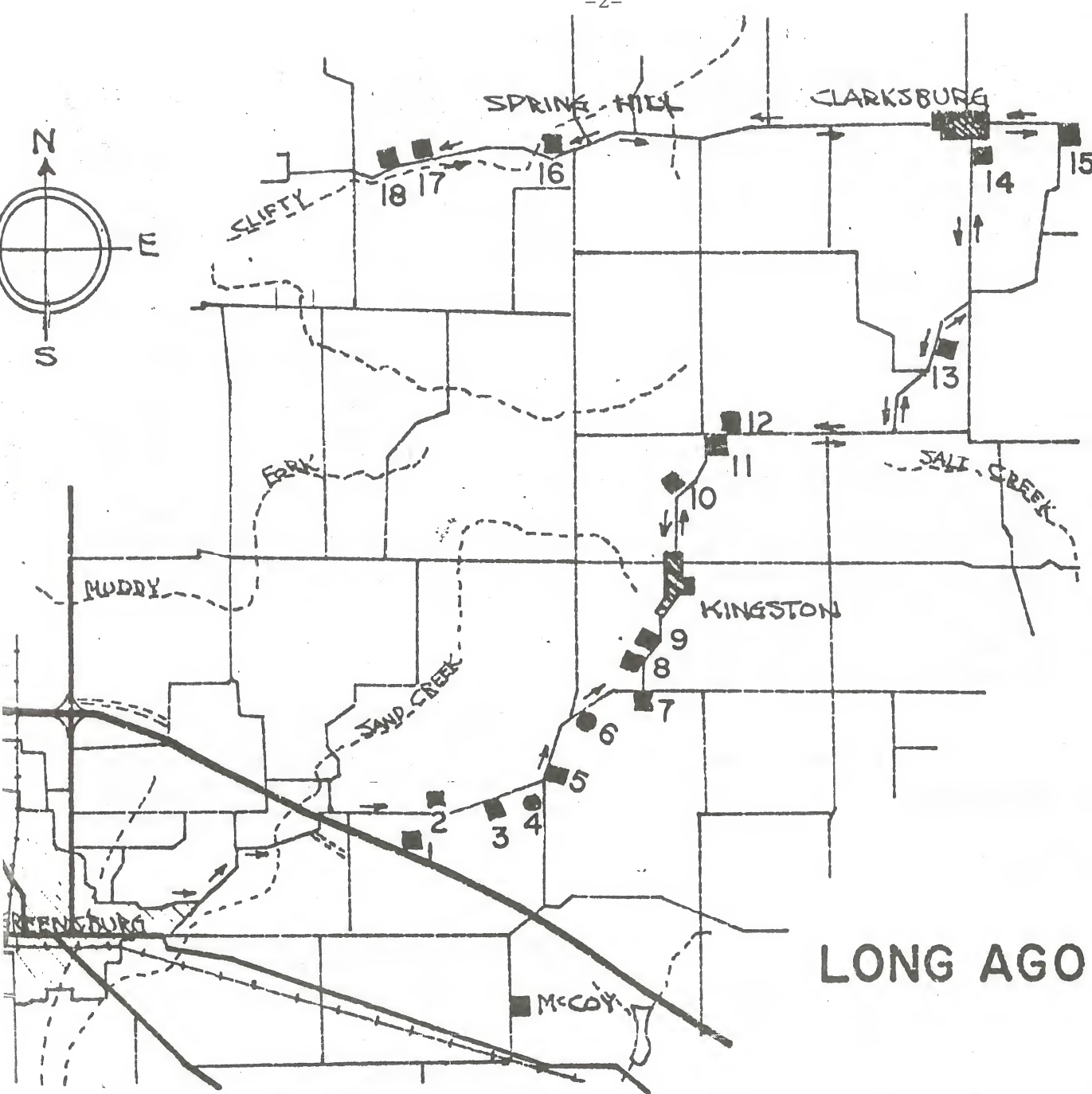
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Helpers are needed at the museum. The working conditions are fine, the pay is not too good. Contace Maxine Clemons, 663-2135.

COURTHOUSE SQUARE-First Courthouse erected in 1826. Trees in park cut down in 1822 & a board fence surrounded the park to keep hogs & cows out. At each side was entrance, a stile consisting of steps up to a platform five feet high. Shade trees around square in front of business houses. About half of the space around the square was covered by residences, many of log. The old jail in southwest corner of the park was the only building in the park for five years. Torn down 1858.

* * * *

DUES are due for 1995. Send to P. O. Box 163, Greensburg, In. 47240



LONG AGO!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) Old Hopkins place (far right) | (10) Hood Hamilton (Ralph Donnell) |
| (2) Antrobus (frame-Rudolph) | (11) Sam'l. & J.C. Donnell |
| (3) Marshall Hamilton (Jackson) | (12) Orlando Hamilton |
| (4) Toll gate & road to McCoy | (13) Ardery place (Everett Hamilton) |
| (5) Robt. A. Hamilton (Auburn Hill) | (14) William Hamilton (abandoned) |
| (6) The Boulder (monument) | (15) Luther A. Donnell (Fee) |
| (7) Lowrey Hamilton (I. McCoy) | (16) First store & P.O. |
| (8) Cyrus Hamilton (Erle Hamilton) | (17) John R. Donnell (frame) |
| (9) Thos. & Squire Hamilton (Bravis) | (18) Thos. Donnell (brick) |

Many of these homes were stations on the Underground Railroad before the Civil War.

10 + 12.11.1982 A. Deal'

-3-
COUNTY SERVICE STATIONS LONG AGO

O. Co. - Westport



DX - Westport



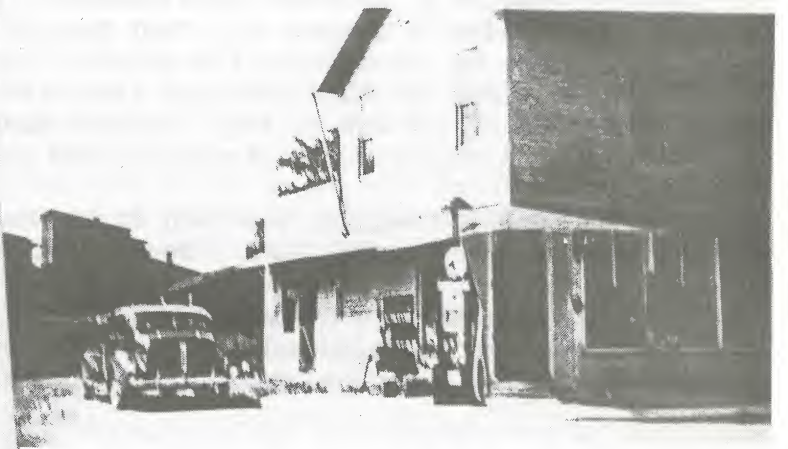
Mobile - Westport



DX - Sardina



Texaco - Sardina



"Boy Soldiers" Part Two

By: Phillip Jackson, Jr., Civil War Writer

Last year I researched Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Reuben Smalley for a series of articles published in the Osgood Journal as Reuben Smalley had served in the famed 83rd Indiana while making his home in Ripley County. After the Civil War, Reuben Smalley moved to Greensburg and is the most well-known Medal of Honor recipient with Decatur County connections.

There were five Civil War Medal of Honor recipients with connections with Decatur County. These men were Reuben Smalley, John Opel, James Dunlavy, Jacob Overturf and Marion Anderson. All five of these men lived in Decatur County at some point in their lives. At least two of these soldiers, and likely a third, were born in Decatur County. In the near future I will complete my research on these soldiers and write about these five heroes.

A fellow Ripley County Medal of Honor winner who also served in the 83rd Indiana was William Steinmetz. He was born September 2, 1847, in Kentucky. He was only fifteen years old at the time of his role in a volunteer storming party's assault during the siege of Vicksburg, May 22, 1863 which earned for him the Medal of Honor. William Steinmetz died June 10, 1903 and is buried in a cemetery in Cincinnati.

Robert W. Christian was a Decatur County boy soldier who served as a private in Company E of the 7th Indiana. In the early months of the Civil War Company E was commanded by Ira G. Grover who was probably Decatur County's most important Civil War soldier.

Young Robert Christian died at Philippi, in what is now West Virginia, December 8, 1861. He is listed in the Adjutant General's Report as having died of fever. Robert Christian was born June 21, 1845 and was only sixteen years old at the time of his death as a Civil War soldier. He was the son of Henry S. and Mary E. Christian. Robert Christian is buried in South Park Cemetery beside his parents.

Another boy soldier from Decatur County had the colorful name of Jasper Cobb. He was born August 5, 1847 on a farm in Washington Township. He was the son of Dyar and Elmira Cobb. His family members were early Decatur County pioneers. Jasper Cobb was sixteen years old when he enlisted in Company A, 134th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in 1863. This regiment had an enlistment of 100 days and was commanded by the dashing Decatur County Civil War soldier Colonel James Gavin. Jasper Cobb was married to Ann E. Cobb (December 26, 1849-April 21, 1931). He passed away June 15, 1916. He is also buried in South Park.

Taylor F. Meek was born November 15, 1848 in Decatur County. In the fall of 1863 he enlisted in Company I, 123rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was only about 15 years old when he volunteered for service. He served until the end of the Civil War. He had three older brothers who were also Civil War soldiers. His father was Adam R. Meek, a veteran of the War of 1812. Taylor Meek was elected Decatur County Sheriff in 1892 and 1894. A reprint of a picture of him can be seen at the Decatur County Jail.

John W. Jenkins was born at St. Omer, May 14, 1847. When he was ten years old his family moved to St. Paul. He was sixteen years old when he enlisted in Company A, 123rd Indiana. After serving until the end of the Civil War, including taking part in Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, he returned home and continued with his schooling. John Jenkins became a school teacher. He then became a school principal in St. Paul and at St. Omer. Later on in the 1880's he became Decatur County Superintendent of Schools.

His wife was Mary Jenkins (December 12, 1848-June 18, 1894). John Jenkins died September 20, 1923. He is buried in Paul Hill Cemetery in St. Paul.

Frank M. Dowden was born in Decatur County June 7, 1845, so that makes him a few years older than these other boy soldiers. But he still had an interesting claim because of his youthfulness. Frank Dowden dropped out of school to volunteer during the Civil War. He served in the important 52nd Indiana. At the youthful age of 19 he was Adjutant of the 52nd Regiment. And it is said that made him the youngest field officer in his entire army corps. He was wounded at Fort Donelson. He rose from private to hold the ranks of corporal and sergeant major, among others, before becoming Adjutant in the 52nd. After serving in the Civil War he returned home to Decatur County and then attended college. He was Deputy Decatur County Auditor. He later became involved in the banking business in Greensburg. He followed that career for several decades. Frank Dowden was married twice and was the father of five children.

At the time of his death in 1898 Frank Dowden owned 160 acres of land in Scott County, Kansas, a stone quarry in Sand Creek Township, several lots along Lincoln Street and Central Avenue, a two-story brick building on South Broadway, a two-story brick building on East Main Street and the three-story "Dowden Block", the yellow brick building on East Main just off the square which carries the name Dowden on its fascade. He is buried in South Park Cemetery across the lane from Soldiers Circle.

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THE LIVE-STOCK RANGE

(From Mr. Cobb's Narrative)

The boundaries of our cow-pastures were not quite so well defined in those days as they are now, and it frequently became necessary to go out into the as yet dense forests and hunt up our cows, as they were not so punctual in their visits home as we would have been pleased to have them be,--often staying out over night, and sometimes much longer,--when, to find them, or even to guess in what direction to go to find them, was a perplexing question. Near the latter part of October 1823 our cows strayed away, and brother Willard and myself went on the hunt for them. We went down Cobb's Fork as far as the FALLS OF THE CREFK, (latterly known as the Magnus farm,) a little above where the creek called Jordan empties in the former stream. There were no settlements along there then. We had never seen the Falls before; and, as there had been a great deal of rain and the creeks were up pretty high, they were quite a sight to our youthful eyes. We were examining the high cliffs and rocks until it had become pretty late in the day, when we crossed over and came to the Dr. Remy place. That was then the best eighty acres there was in that region; was covered with pawpaw bushes, and the ground under the bushes with ripe pawpaws--just in that stage in which their admirers love best to find them. We there fell in with a FLOCK OF WILD TURKEYS, and we had the good luck to kill one of them. About that time our dog treed a couple of coons that had been feasting upon the pawpaws, which we also killed. It was now growing quite late in the afternoon, and we turned our course toward home. As before stated, there had been heavy rains, and the creek was up so high that it was rather dangerous to follow along its course in the dark, owing to the liability to fall into the stream, or into the holes along its banks, and as the creek was the only guide we had to follow, we had to give up the idea of getting home in the darkness and set ourselves to preparing, as best we could, a place to SPEND THE NIGHT.

We first tried to get a fire, adopting the plan that hunters pursued in cases of this kind, by taking some tow from our shot-pouch and, dampening it a little, sprinkled powder through it, and then holding it under the lock struck fire from the flint;

but, as we could find no dry wood, were forced to do without fire, which made it very uncomfortable, while the darkness was not a pleasant addition to the situation. But what could not be cured had to be endured.

We had with us a tomahawk and butcher-knife. With which we cut poles, one end of which we placed on a large log and the other upon the ground, and upon the poles cut and piled brush; under this shelter we piled up leaves for a bed, and crawling in to this retreat lay down side by side, placing the coons and turkey on our bodies to assist in keeping ourselves warm.

Here we managed to pull through the night, but on the first dawn were out and on our way home. On reaching a cleared place we found there was a heavy frost, and I do not remember seeing a heavier one since.

NOTE.--Mr. Cobb forgets to inform us what become of the cows.

EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGES

What Mr. Cobb relates of the disadvantages attending the attainment of an education, and that of a very limited sort, in his boyhood was the common experience of those times. To have mastered Guthrie's or Pike's arithmetic to the 'Rule of Three' was an achievement to be boasted of in our grand-father's days: while grammar was an unknown book, even to teachers. He says:

When I was eighteen years of age I had had no schooling to amount to anything, though in Pennsylvania I had gone to school some, and learned to spell and to read, a little. We did not have books then, as we do now and teachers were also few. The year I was eighteen I went down to Vernon, (North Vernon was not then in existence,) where I attended school two months. I stayed with Colonel Stott, and worked nights, mornings and Saturdays for my board. The Colonel was a Baptist preacher and was then clerk of the court; and as every one knows, or did know, was a good man.

I there studied spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic, (Pike's), and went as far in this last as the "Single Rule of Three"--now known as Simple Proportion. It was the custom then, after the pupil had worked out an example to take it to the teacher, and if he pronounced it correct the pupil would copy it into a blank book kept especially for that purpose. The manner of teaching was somewhat different then from that now practiced, but the eagerness of the pupils to learn overcome, to some extent, any defects in the system.

The next winter we had a school in our own neighborhood, in a house that stood near the place where the Clemons school-house now is, taught by James Gaunt, which I attended one month, and reviewed just what I had gone over at Vernon. This completed my school days, and was all I ever had. Whatever I may have learned more than this has been in the school of experience.

* * * * *

EARLY-DAY SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

The reference by Mr. Cobb in the foregoing extracts to the schools, (or, rather, the want of schools,) and the difficulties in the way of obtaining an education in his boyhood days, has awakened in my mind memories long dormant of the schools and teachers of the long gone past--not quite so long gone, however, as his.

Previous to about 1850 Indiana had no common-school system; no funds worth the

mentioning for the support of schools; no school districts; and, up to about 1835, no school-houses. A vacant cabin, built of round logs and chinked with mud--a log cut out on either side, and shaded with greased paper, to emit the light--such is the picture now before my mind of the school-house of seventy years ago. For seats, there were benches made of "puncheons," (see Webster Unabridged,) the legs of which were not all of the same length, causing them to sway back and forth in response to the swaying of the youngster's legs, which were all too short to reach the floor.

The curriculum of the schools was not an extensive one--Reading, Writing and Arithmetic being about the sum of it, and Grammar and Geography unthought of--and those three were about all that the greater portion of the teachers could teach, and some of them not over successfully. The text-books in use were the American Primer, the alphabet the "abs" and pictures of the dog, cow, horse, etc., underneath; then came Dilworth's or Webster's spelling-book and Guthrie's or Pike's arithmetic. For readers, we had the English Reader, the Bible or the New Testament, and Weems' Life of Washington--a novel that is now out of date, and which was permitted by the orthodox because of the great moral lesson included by the cherry-tree fable.

The teachers of the first decade following the organization of the County whom I knew personally, (seven of them professionally,) were: Joseph K. Rankin and William Marlow, of Springhill; John Goddard, in Clinton township; "Uncle Jack" Bell and John Hopkins, around Mt. Carmel; Samuel ('old 'Squire') Donnell, Samuel Henry, James McCoy and "Judge Billy" Thomson in the neighborhood of Kingston; Thomas Peery, Elijah Mitchell, Enoch Tackett, James S. Gaunt and Garrard Morgan, around Greensburg, and Joseph Patton, Samuel Sebaugh and James Brockman in the town.

Of the above fourteen only "Uncle Jack" Bell, now in his ninety-fifth year, survives to witness the fruits of his labors. Joseph K. Rankin was a farmer, but had been educated for the Associate Reformed ministry. James McCoy went into the ministry of the Presbyterian church, and died with the harness on. John Hopkins has already been sketched in these columns, and 'Squire Donnell and Elijah Mitchell would each require more space than is here available.

Messrs. Goddard, Peery, Morgan, Henry and Gaunt were fairly average farmers of their neighborhoods, who taught "pro bono publico". While all of them were probably passable teachers in their day, it is questionable if any one of the fourteen named could secure a six-month's license under the present system.

(Continued Next Issued)

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MEMBERSHIPS and MEMORIALS

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership	\$5.00	Payable by January 1st.		
Life Membership	\$100.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>	New	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift	<input type="checkbox"/> Life

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

IF GIFTS: From _____ Address _____

MEMORIALS

In Memory of _____ Comments _____

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802 E. Beechwood Dr., Grbg.
Ph: 663-7263
1st. V. Pres.....Herb Scheidler
2nd. V. Pres.....Tony Owens
Rec. Sec.....Lenora Bainbridge
Cor. Sec.....Peg Miller Jenkinson
Treas.....Maurice Keith

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John Parker '97
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Van P. Batterton
525 N. Broadway St.
Greensburg, IN 47240

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Virginia Garvey '96
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Earl Vanderbur '97
Allan Beall '98
Marjorie Hunter '98

MUSEUM CURATOR

Jackie Mendenhall
663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Maxine Clemons
663-2135

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Rosalie Robbins

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 163
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

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Mrs. Stanley Jenkinson
808 Sycamore Rd.
Batesville, IN 47006

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES
AT
THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 3RD
3pm Music 5pm

tribution to the war effort will be stressed. Veterans should be honored on their special day. World War II began for America with the attack on Pearl Harbor & ended with the Atomic Bomb being dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki in Japan. The program will be concluded with a special reading & singing of "Taps". A display table will be set up for World War II mementos, and you are invited to bring whatever you think would be of interest representing this World conflict.

* * * * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Janice Uppencamp, Winslow, IN.

* * * * *

DONATIONS

From Maurice Voget in thanks for genealogy search by Rosie Robbins.

From Mary Parmer Roemer.

* * * * *

FOR SALE-Christmas Ornaments both new (1995) & old (1994) at the Union Branch Bank (I.G.A.), Hunter's Pharmacy. Don't put it off & miss this opportunity.

* * * * *

DUES-are yours paid, I do hope so.

OUR COUNTY

OCTOBER 1995

MEETING REPORT-"Once in a While Band" put on a program of folk grass music on the front lawn Museum. The event was attended by appreciative group of Society & friends. The band was made of our musicians; a pediatrician, school teachers, & a nurse. They did great, and certainly enjoyed Lemonade & cookies were served. They hit the spot, as it was really great weather. Virginia Garvey got the program. We all wish to thank her for a great job.

* * * * *

The Civil War

By: Cliff Elder

The principal cause of the Civil War was over negro slavery. It was this that caused all the other troubles with the southern states. As there were so many slaves in the South, slavery was becoming unprofitable for this reason -- the people wanted a larger dominion for the business: when a state in the South applied for admission into the Union the slave holders used all their influence to have it to come in as a slave state.

By the Missouri Compromise, slavery could not extend north of the latitude of 36 - 30. This compromise was made by Henry Clay of Kentucky in order to admit Missouri as a slave state.

When Kansas applied for admission into the Union the South wanted it to come in as a slave state, which was contrary to the Missouri Compromise. As Kansas was admitted as a free state the South saw that they could not get much more territory for slavery, and for this reason they thought they would secede from the Union and found a republic of their own with slavery as its foundation.

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/THE BULLETIN/

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FALL ISSUE

Greensburg, Indiana

OCTOBER 1995

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the Decatur
County Historical Society.

PLACE: Decatur County Public Libr-
ary Meeting Room.

DATE: Wednesday Evening, Nov. 8,
1995 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Bill Hunter & Bill Ford are
scheduled to give this program empha-
sizing the 50th Anniversary of the end of
World War II. Decatur County's contri-
bution to the War effort will be stress-
ed. Veterans should be honored on their
special day. World War II began for
America with the attack on Pearl Harbor
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two school teachers, & a nurse. They
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ed. They hit the spot, as it was real
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ion.

(continued next page)

The condition of the Union at the beginning of the war was as follows: Washington itself was the headquarters of secession during the Winter of 1860 and 61. Many leaders of the movement were in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet and in the U.S. Senate.

The national government was paralyzed. Its Navy was scattered to the most distant seas, and a great deal of its cannon, rifles, and military were in the southern forts and arsenals, which were taken almost without exception by the authorities of the Confederate States.

Many southern officers in the Army and Navy, believing their obedience due to the native states rather than to the Union, resigned their commissions and offered their services to the Confederate Government.

Ft. Pickens, Ft. Sumter, and Fortress Monroe were the only forts held by the U.S. troops in the Spring of 1861.

Mr. Lincoln, in his inaugural address on the 4th of March, declared that he had neither the right nor the wish to interfere with Southern institutions, but designed to hold and defend the property of the U.S. against any who should assail it. He threw upon the politicians of the South the whole responsibility of the calamity which must follow the destruction of the Union, assuring them that there could be no conflict unless they themselves should choose to begin it.

No one, probably, imagined the horrible magnitude of the struggle then commencing. Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, predicted that the war, if there was a war, would not last more than 90 days.

The South, on the other hand, relied upon the great number of her sympathizers in the North to prevent any energetic action on the part of the government. Moreover, she believed that if her cotton was withheld from European factories, France and England would combine to put an end to the war and produce the needed supply. The first engagement of this war was the bombardment of Ft. Sumter in South Carolina.

It commenced before daylight of the 12th of April, 1861, and was kept up for 34 hours, until at midnight of the 13th, Major Anderson found that longer resistance was impossible. By the terms of the surrender he marched out with his 80 men with all honors of war, and spent the remainder of his powder in a last salute to the Stars and Stripes.

The news of the fall of Ft. Sumter flew along the electric wires and aroused both divisions of the country to more decided action. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee renounced the Union and joined their fortunes with the Confederate States. On the other hand, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri refused to secede.

The Navy yard at Norfolk, Va., with its 2,000 cannon and immense store of war materials, was seized by Virginia troops. The U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry was burned by the order of the Federal commander. Both Presidents called for volunteers and both were answered with enthusiasm.

For the defense of the national capital, which was in immediate danger, militia regiments from Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts hastened to its relief. The Sixth Massachusetts was attacked on the 19th of April, 1861, in its passage through Baltimore and several men were killed. This was the eighty-sixth anniversary of the battle of Lexington where their great-grandfathers had shed the first blood in their struggle for freedom.

In the East the main field was Virginia, in the West, at first, Missouri. Though

Missouri voted against secession, it contained a strong Confederate party, and 60 battles were fought within a year upon its soil.

The principal event of 1861 was the separation of West Virginia. The greatest battle of this year was at Bull Run on Sunday, July 21st, and it was a Union defeat. McClellan was called to be the commander-in-chief of the Army of the Potomac, and when General Scott retired from service, McClellan became lieutenant-general of the forces of the U.S.

The blockade of the southern Atlantic coast had been made so complete that very little foreign goods could reach the Confederacy. The Trent affair set right by the U.S. Government and the recapture of Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal Entrance, and Island Tybee.

The principal events of 1862: Forts Henry and Donelson were taken by Grant. Union victory at Shiloh on the 6th and 7th of April, recapture of island No. 10--Memphis and Ft. Pillow were taken in April--Federal victory at Pea Ridge--Bragg's campaign in Kentucky--Confederates were defeated the 19th of September, at Corinth the 3rd of October, and at Murfreesborough the 30th of December--New Orleans was captured by Farragut and Butler. The battle between the Merrimac and Monitor in the Hampton Roads on the 9th of March--McClellan's march to Richmond--Second defeat at Bull Run on the 29th and 30th of August--Lee's invasion of Maryland--Battle of Antietam on the 17th of September--Union defeat at Fredericksburg.

The year had been disastrous to the national interests in the East and had been marked by great successes in the West. Only two posts were held on the Mississippi by the Confederates, Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

The principal events of 1863--On the 22nd of September, 1862, five days after the battle of Antietam, President Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring that after 100 days "all persons held as slaves within any states or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the U.S., shall be then, thence-forward, and forever free." It went into effect on the first day of January, 1863. Fifty thousand negroes were enlisted into the Federal Army and Navy during this year.

The Union Army was defeated at Chancellorsville on the 2nd and 3rd of May with a loss of 17,000 men. The Confederate general, Stonewall Jackson, was killed in this battle.

In resistance to a draft, a riot broke out in the city of New York which lasted three days.

Invasion of Pennsylvania--The greatest battle of this war was at Gettysburg on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of July. It was a Union victory. The greatest surrender was at Vicksburg on the 4th of July. There were 15 generals, 31,000 men, and 172 cannon surrendered.

Port Hudson was surrendered on the 8th of July to General Banks. This ended the war on the Mississippi and divided the Confederacy--Morgan's raid in Indiana and Ohio--The campaign of Chattanooga in Union victories at Lookout Mountain on the 24th of November and Missionary Ridge on the 25th of November.

The principal events of 1864--Grant was appointed lieutenant general, at the head of U.S. armies. The battle of the Wilderness was a costly and indecisive battle. Battle of Cedar Creek saved by "Sheridan's Ride." Grant began the siege of Richmond and Petersburg--Hood was defeated three times in nine days--Sherman burnt Atlanta and be-

gan his march through Georgia to the sea; he captured Savannah on the 21st of December, Lincoln was re-elected President, and Andrew Johnson, Vice-President.

The principal events of 1865--Columbia and Charleston were burnt on the 17th of February--Sherman's march through Carolinas--Abandonment and burning of Richmond.

On Monday morning, the 3rd of April, the national forces occupied the Confederate capital. Lee retreated westward, closely pursued by Grant. Finally, on the 9th of April, Lee surrendered his entire command, at Appomattox Courthouse, Va. Johnson surrendered to Sherman on the 26th of April, and the few scattered forces of the Confederacy followed the example.

President Lincoln was murdered on the 14th of April, 1865, by John Wilkes Booth. He lingered until the next morning in unconsciousness and then died.

The horror and indignation excited by the wicked plot was not confined to the North. It was found, however, that only a few persons of no great reputations were concerned in it. Booth was overtaken and shot as he refused to surrender; four of his accomplices were hanged and three imprisoned for life.

Thus ended one of the greatest wars known to ancient or modern time; one in which the expenditure of money and human life was never equaled. As a result we have a free, united, and prosperous people. Was the result worth the expenditure? Let the future answer. (May 10, 1890)

Editor's Note--

Cliff Elder, a well-known resident of Greensburg, was just 14 years old when he wrote this essay for a high school assignment. Mr. Elder's father and one of his uncles were in the 7th Regiment, the one most famous (with the 37th) in this county. There were two other uncles in the Union Army also.

It seems pretty extraordinary that a 14-year-old could write such a paper, and gives an idea of what they were taught in those days.

I would like each reader to reread the last paragraph of the article and spend some time thinking about it. Then ask yourself, "Have we really progressed so much--or so little--since that time?"

Another note of interest concerning the Elder history is that Mr. Elder's grandfather homesteaded a part of the present Elder farm. This was government property during the James Monroe Administration and he was given a parchment whereby he could enter this land for a fee of \$1.25 per acre and make this his home.

Mr. Elder had his 88th birthday on June 17, 1964, and is now living in the Paul-Ann Nursing Home. From the Farm News of Decatur County, Nov. 1964. (Diana Springmier is Mr. Elder's grand-daughter.)

* * * * *

Letter to the editor:

Sept. 14, 1995

I'm writing about the article by Smiley Fowler on the first page of the July 1995

issue of "The Bulletin".

The article was about Sanford Stark (actually it was Sanford Starks) who was my uncle and brother of my mother Mrs. Jennie S. McKee of New Point and Greensburg.

Basically the article was correct about Sanford being the model for a comic strip --but some of the details were in error. At the time in question Sanford lived in Denver, Colorado and was the field representative for the western region of the then Standard Oil Co. of Indiana. Sandy's boss was Frank V. Martinek, who was a vice president of Standard Oil in Chicago. As a sideline or hobby, Mr. Martinek wrote the adventure comic strip "Don Winslow USN" and "Sandy Stark" was a part of that series.

Sanford S. Starks was born on June 13, 1894 in New Point, Indiana. He died on Sept. 12, 1959. He is buried in the mausoleum at the South Park cemetery in Greensburg, Indiana. This and related family information is contained in the book "Faces Westward" (copyright 1956) by Jennie Starks McKee. A copy of this book is in the Greensburg library.

Sincerely,

John McKee

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Continued from: The First Institute

In that time forty-five or fifty members were enrolled, though we seldom had more than twenty-five at any meeting.

Mr. Powner and Mr. Batterton continued to be our leaders, but were well seconded by Messrs. Grey, Stotsenburg, Sample, Merit and Mallett.

Meetings were usually held in the old Seminary, but I remember meeting in the basement of the Baptist church, in the basement of the Presbyterian church, and in the jury rooms of the court house.

The first institute in the county was held under the direction of this association in August, 1860. The association had a little money in the treasury, and enough was made up among the teachers to employ G. W. Hoss to conduct an institute for one week. Mr. Hoss was teacher of mathematics in the North Western University at Indianapolis, a fine teacher and a splendid lecturer. He was afterward State Superintendent. The institute was a great success and gave great impulse to the cause of education in the county. After this the association meetings were held two days quarterly.

The next institute was held at Clarksburg in August, 1861. The third institute took the form of a normal school and was held at Milford in July and August, 1862, under the direction of Powner, Merit, Stotsenburg and Mallett. There were between forty and fifty students. We paid \$4 tuition each, which about paid expenses. This normal was a great success and would have done great good for the schools of the county, but it was now in the heat of the civil war. Everything was at white heat. One night during this Normal the bells of the village rang and the alarmed people sprang from their beds. A raid had been made in the southern part of the State and there was a call for volunteers. The next day two of our teachers joined the 76th regiment and hurried to the front. Two others joined the 68th and were drilling for the conflict. This unsettled everything. People thought about little except the war and their friends engaged in the strife.

Another check to the reviving cause of schools just at this time was this: The

trustees had been hiring teachers in advance of their draw, consequently they were always a year behind, and teachers sold their orders at a great sacrifice. To stop this the legislature passed an act prohibiting trustees hiring teachers until they (the trustees) had drawn their money from the treasury. This closed the schools for one year. It was hard on most of us then, but a good thing ever after. I taught a private school at No. 4, and did better financially than I had ever done before this time.

What few teachers were left kept up our two-day quarterly meetings until August 1863. A few of us met in the jury room at the southwest corner of the court house. There was to be a public speaking that day and the town was full of people. One could easily see there was to be trouble. We met, however, and commenced our work, but when shots were fired in the street, we forgot our books, and rushing to the window, looked down on the angry crowd below.

Cap Robbins, then a young lawyer, got up in a wagon to try to pacify matters, but had said only a few words when some threw a stone which struck him on the back of the head and knocked him out of the wagon.

Most of the male teachers caught the excitement and ran down into the crowd, except Powner and myself. The lady teachers were greatly frightened, but we escorted them out of the north gate to a hotel. Thus closed our association forever, after an existence of about seven years.

It did a great work for the cause of education in this county. Nearly all its members have gone to the great beyond. I know only four living: Mrs. R. Rhiver, Miss J. Hanley, Adam Sample and myself.

The fourth institute was held in the new (west) school building in Greensburg in August, 1865. It was the largest ever held in the county up to that date. But the greatest boom, the grandest revival in the cause of education in the State was in 1866. It was not a township or a county affair, but included the entire State. The State Teachers' Association, in January, 1866, planned four great institutes for the State to be held in July and August of that year, and appointed an institute committee of five to carry out the plans of the association.

The following constituted the committee:

A. C. Shortridge, Superintendent Indianapolis schools.

D. Eckley Hunter, Superintendent Bloomington schools.

J. G. Laird.

Hiram Hadley, Richmond schools.

J. Hurty, Lawrenceburg schools.

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The Greensburg institute was the largest, enrolling 220 members. Bloomington had 180, and I do not know the exact attendance of the others. They attracted educators from many large cities as far away as Boston. Prof. Apgar, of Philadelphia, a lady associated with Guiot, Oswego, New York, Prof. Edwards, of Illinois, and many others attended.

Among the teachers which my memory recalls were Profs. Hurty, E. E. White, State Superintendent of Ohio; R. T. Brown, Ridpath, Hunter, Robert Kidd, the elocutionist, Apgar and some whose names I have forgotten.

The State Institute originated system, enthusiasm and co-operation throughout the state that has never lost its influence; and though the chief actors are gone, you do not know, you perhaps never will know, how much you are indebted to the pioneer educators.

Now, teachers, I have gone over ten years of the educational period of your country--from 1856 to 1866. It might be called the period of reformation in education in this county and State. A new soul, a new enthusiasm, a flood of new knowledge and scholarship were infused and enthused into the cause of the school in this State that never will erase.

By: J. A. Dillman

* * * * *

Early Settlers "Branded" Stock

Early settlers of the county had their own methods of "branding" cattle.

The "brand" was necessary because stock roamed at will.

The "stock marks" were recorded -- first by the county clerk, who also served as recorder, and later by the recorder.

First entries were made in April, 1822 by Henry H. Talbott. Talbott also made the last entry as clerk on Oct. 16, 1855.

The last entry recorded by the recorder was in 1871.

A few of the markings:

Martin Adkins' stock mark is smooth crop of each ear and an under bite out of the right ear. April 9, 1822.

(Continued Next Issued)

* * * * *

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Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.

P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN. 47240

Yearly Membership	\$5.00	Payable by January 1st.		
Life Membership	\$100.00			
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In Memory of _____ Comments _____

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

FALL ISSUE

Greensburg, Indiana

OCTOBER 1995

OCCASION: Fall Meeting of the Decatur County Historical Society.

PLACE: Decatur County Public Library Meeting Room.

DATE: Wednesday Evening, Nov. 8, 1995 at 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: Bill Hunter & Bill Ford are scheduled to give this program emphasizing the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Decatur County's contribution to the War effort will be stressed. Veterans should be honored on their special day. World War II began for America with the attack on Pearl Harbor & ended with the Atomic Bomb being dropped on Hiroshima & Nagasaki in Japan. The program will be concluded with a special reading & singing of "Taps". A display table will be set up for World War II mementos, and you are invited to bring whatever you think would be of interest representing this World conflict.

* * * * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Janice Uppencamp, Winslow, IN.

* * * * *

DONATIONS

From Maurice Voget in thanks for genealogy search by Rosie Robbins.

From Mary Parmer Roemer.

* * * * *

FOR SALE-Christmas Ornaments both new (1995) & old (1994) at the Union Branch Bank (I.G.A.), Hunter's Pharmacy. Don't put it off & miss this opportunity.

* * * * *

DUES-are yours paid, I do hope so.

LAST MEETING REPORT-"Once in a While String Band" put on a program of folk & blue grass music on the front lawn of the Museum. The event was attended by a very appreciative group of Society members & friends. The band was made up of four musicians; a pediatrician, two school teachers, & a nurse. They were just great, and certainly enjoyed by all. Lemonade & cookies were served. They hit the spot, as it was real lemonade weather. Virginia Garvey got up the program. We all wish to thank her for a great job.

* * * * *

The Civil War

By: Cliff Elder

The principal cause of the Civil War was over negro slavery. It was this that caused all the other troubles with the southern states. As there were so many slaves in the South, slavery was becoming unprofitable for this reason -- the people wanted a larger dominion for the business: when a state in the South applied for admission into the Union the slave holders used all their influence to have it to come in as a slave state.

By the Missouri Compromise, slavery could not extend north of the latitude of 36 - 30. This compromise was made by Henry Clay of Kentucky in order to admit Missouri as a slave state.

When Kansas applied for admission into the Union the South wanted it to come in as a slave state, which was contrary to the Missouri Compromise. As Kansas was admitted as a free state the South saw that they could not get much more territory for slavery, and for this reason they thought they would secede from the Union and found a republic of their own with slavery as its foundation.

(continued next page)

The condition of the Union at the beginning of the war was as follows: Washington itself was the headquarters of secession during the Winter of 1860 and 61. Many leaders of the movement were in Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet and in the U.S. Senate.

The national government was paralyzed. Its Navy was scattered to the most distant seas, and a great deal of its cannon, rifles, and military were in the southern forts and arsenals, which were taken almost without exception by the authorities of the Confederate States.

Many southern officers in the Army and Navy, believing their obedience due to the native states rather than to the Union, resigned their commissions and offered their services to the Confederate Government.

Ft. Pickens, Ft. Sumter, and Fortress Monroe were the only forts held by the U.S. troops in the Spring of 1861.

Mr. Lincoln, in his inaugural address on the 4th of March, declared that he had neither the right nor the wish to interfere with Southern institutions, but designed to hold and defend the property of the U.S. against any who should assail it. He threw upon the politicians of the South the whole responsibility of the calamity which must follow the destruction of the Union, assuring them that there could be no conflict unless they themselves should choose to begin it.

No one, probably, imagined the horrible magnitude of the struggle then commencing. Mr. Seward, the Secretary of State, predicted that the war, if there was a war, would not last more than 90 days.

The South, on the other hand, relied upon the great number of her sympathizers in the North to prevent any energetic action on the part of the government. Moreover, she believed that if her cotton was withheld from European factories, France and England would combine to put an end to the war and produce the needed supply. The first engagement of this war was the bombardment of Ft. Sumter in South Carolina.

It commenced before daylight of the 12th of April, 1861, and was kept up for 34 hours, until at midnight of the 13th, Major Anderson found that longer resistance was impossible. By the terms of the surrender he marched out with his 80 men with all honors of war, and spent the remainder of his powder in a last salute to the Stars and Stripes.

The news of the fall of Ft. Sumter flew along the electric wires and aroused both divisions of the country to more decided action. Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee renounced the Union and joined their fortunes with the Confederate States. On the other hand, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri refused to secede.

The Navy yard at Norfolk, Va., with its 2,000 cannon and immense store of war materials, was seized by Virginia troops. The U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry was burned by the order of the Federal commander. Both Presidents called for volunteers and both were answered with enthusiasm.

For the defense of the national capital, which was in immediate danger, militia regiments from Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts hastened to its relief. The Sixth Massachusetts was attacked on the 19th of April, 1861, in its passage through Baltimore and several men were killed. This was the eighty-sixth anniversary of the battle of Lexington where their great-grandfathers had shed the first blood in their struggle for freedom.

In the East the main field was Virginia, in the West, at first, Missouri. Though

Missouri voted against secession, it contained a strong Confederate party, and 60 battles were fought within a year upon its soil.

The principal event of 1861 was the separation of West Virginia. The greatest battle of this year was at Bull Run on Sunday, July 21st, and it was a Union defeat. McClellan was called to be the commander-in-chief of the Army of the Potomac, and when General Scott retired from service, McClellan became lieutenant-general of the forces of the U.S.

The blockade of the southern Atlantic coast had been made so complete that very little foreign goods could reach the Confederacy. The Trent affair set right by the U.S. Government and the recapture of Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal Entrance, and Island Tybee.

The principal events of 1862: Forts Henry and Donelson were taken by Grant. Union victory at Shiloh on the 6th and 7th of April, recapture of island No. 10--Memphis and Ft. Pillow were taken in April--Federal victory at Pea Ridge--Bragg's campaign in Kentucky--Confederates were defeated the 19th of September, at Corinth the 3rd of October, and at Murfreesborough the 30th of December--New Orleans was captured by Farragut and Butler. The battle between the Merrimac and Monitor in the Hampton Roads on the 9th of March--McClellan's march to Richmond--Second defeat at Bull Run on the 29th and 30th of August--Lee's invasion of Maryland--Battle of Antietam on the 17th of September--Union defeat at Fredericksburg.

The year had been disastrous to the national interests in the East and had been marked by great successes in the West. Only two posts were held on the Mississippi by the Confederates, Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

The principal events of 1863--On the 22nd of September, 1862, five days after the battle of Antietam, President Lincoln issued a proclamation declaring that after 100 days "all persons held as slaves within any states or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the U.S., shall be then, thence-forward, and forever free." It went into effect on the first day of January, 1863. Fifty thousand negroes were enlisted into the Federal Army and Navy during this year.

The Union Army was defeated at Chancellorsville on the 2nd and 3rd of May with a loss of 17,000 men. The Confederate general, Stonewall Jackson, was killed in this battle.

In resistance to a draft, a riot broke out in the city of New York which lasted three days.

Invasion of Pennsylvania--The greatest battle of this war was at Gettysburg on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of July. It was a Union victory. The greatest surrender was at Vicksburg on the 4th of July. There were 15 generals, 31,000 men, and 172 cannon surrendered.

Port Hudson was surrendered on the 8th of July to General Banks. This ended the war on the Mississippi and divided the Confederacy--Morgan's raid in Indiana and Ohio--The campaign of Chattanooga in Union victories at Lookout Mountain on the 24th of November and Missionary Ridge on the 25th of November.

The principal events of 1864--Grant was appointed lieutenant general, at the head of U.S. armies. The battle of the Wilderness was a costly and indecisive battle. Battle of Cedar Creek saved by "Sheridan's Ride." Grant began the siege of Richmond and Petersburg--Hood was defeated three times in nine days--Sherman burnt Atlanta and be-

gan his march through Georgia to the sea; he captured Savannah on the 21st of December, Lincoln was re-elected President, and Andrew Johnson, Vice-President.

The principal events of 1865--Columbia and Charleston were burnt on the 17th of February--Sherman's march through Carolinas--Abandonment and burning of Richmond.

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